

Frequently Asked Questions

For Youth and Their Families

When can I see family?

Elkins Mountain Schools (EMS) encourages family contact, in writing, by telephone, and in person. As soon as your DHHR caseworker authorizes, your EMS Case Manager will arrange a visit, called a “treatment pass.” On campus treatment passes last about two hours and initially will be supervised. As you meet your responsibilities and earn privileges you will also earn off campus, unsupervised visits with family members, if approved by DHHR.

Will I be allowed to go home to visit?

Yes, if authorized by your DHHR caseworker and when recommended by your treatment team, usually in preparation for discharge. Additionally, overnight passes are scheduled during major holidays. You will be permitted to attend if your behavior is appropriate and you are achieving objectives on your treatment plan.

How long will it take for me to complete the program?

That depends on you. On average, the Oak Ridge program is five to eight months. The Main Campus program is six to twelve months. Are you motivated to change? Do you see the program as an opportunity or something you “have to do”? These are important factors that will impact your progress.

What items may I bring?

EMS provides all personal hygiene items including shampoo, deodorant, razors and shaving cream. EMS also provides towels and bed linens. At admission and throughout your stay, your EMS Case Manager will assess your clothing needs and EMS will provide clothing as necessary. You are allowed to have enough clothing for one week, with seasonal items such as swim shorts and winter jackets. Your DHHR caseworker will be provided the list prior to your admission. Clothing that is unnecessarily revealing or depicts themes of drug use or violence is not permitted. Expensive items, compact discs, cassettes, DVDs and electronic video games are not permitted. You may bring a small radio. Your EMS Case Manager will help you decide what to keep and will return unauthorized items to approved family members or your DHHR caseworker.

Do I need to bring money?

No. All of your needs will be met by EMS.

What is expected of me during my stay?

EMS expects you to:

- Behave in a manner that does not pose risk to you or others.
- Take care of your property and the property of others.
- Behave and speak respectfully to staff and other clients.
- Wear clothing appropriate to the weather and activity.
- Achieve and maintain good personal health and hygiene.
- Identify and work toward educational goals by consistently attending school and completing schoolwork.
- Work toward your individualized treatment goals and participate in therapeutic activities.

